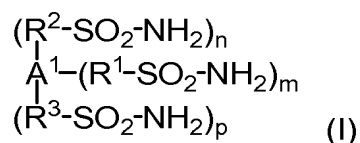


Amendments to Claims

1. (Original) A fluorinated sulfonamide small molecule having the general structure:



wherein m, n and p are 0 to 3, with the proviso that m + n + p is equal to 1 to 4;

A¹ is an aromatic heterocyclic group, with the proviso that carbon atoms of the heterocyclic ring are fully substituted by fluorinated sulfonamide groups; and

R¹, R², and R³ are linear or branched perfluoroalkylene groups, optionally containing oxygen, chlorine, bromine, or iodine atoms.

2. (Previously Presented) The fluorinated sulfonamide small molecule of claim 1 wherein m, n and p are 0 to 2, with the proviso that m + n + p is equal to 1 to 2.

3. (Original) The fluorinated sulfonamide small molecule of claim 1 wherein the aromatic heterocyclic group is selected from the group consisting of benzimidazole, benzoxazole, benzothiazole, benzobisimidazole, benzobisoxazole, benzobisthiazole, bibenzimidazole, bibenzoxazole, bibenzothiazole, imidazole, oxazole, thiazole, triazine, tetrazole, pyrazole, triazole, oxadiazole, and thiadiazole.

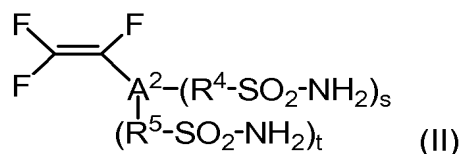
4. (Original) The fluorinated sulfonamide small molecule of claim 3 wherein the aromatic heterocyclic group is selected from the group consisting of benzimidazole, benzoxazole, benzothiazole, and triazine.

5. (Original) The fluorinated sulfonamide small molecule of claim 1 wherein the aromatic heterocyclic group is benzimidazole.

6. (Original) The fluorinated sulfonamide small molecule of claim 1 wherein the linear or branched perfluoroalkylene groups, optionally containing oxygen, chlorine, bromine, or iodine atoms contain 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

7. (Original) The fluorinated sulfonamide small molecule of claim 6 wherein R¹, R², and R³ are linear perfluoroalkylene groups containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

8. (Original) A polymerizable perfluorinated or partially fluorinated trifluorovinyl monomer comprising aromatic heterocyclic groups substituted by fluorinated sulfonamide groups and having the general structure:



wherein s and t are the number of fluorinated sulfonamide groups attached to the heterocyclic ring and are equal 0 to 2, with the proviso that s + t is equal to 1 to 2;

A² is an aromatic heterocyclic group, with the proviso that carbon atoms of the heterocyclic ring are fully substituted by either the trifluorovinyl group or the fluorinated sulfonamide groups; and

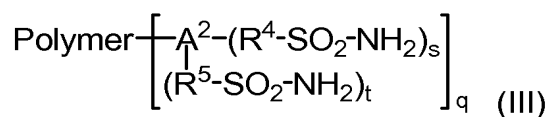
R⁴ and R⁵ are linear or branched perfluoroalkylene groups, optionally containing oxygen, chlorine, bromine, or iodine atoms.

9. (Original) The polymerizable perfluorinated or partially fluorinated trifluorovinyl monomer of claim 8 wherein the aromatic heterocyclic group selected from the group consisting of benzimidazole, benzoxazole, benzothiazole, benzobisimidazole, benzobisoxazole, benzobisthiazole, bibenzimidazole, bibenzoxazole, bibenzothiazole, imidazole, oxazole, thiazole, triazine, pyrazole, triazole, oxadiazole, and thiadiazole.

10.-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The polymerizable perfluorinated or partially fluorinated trifluorovinyl monomer of claim 8 wherein R⁴ and R⁵ are linear perfluoroalkylene groups containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

14. (Original) A fluorinated sulfonamide vinyl polymer having the general structure:



wherein Polymer is a polyperfluorocarbon or polypartially fluorinated carbon vinyl polymer backbone optionally containing aromatic side chain groups; q is the mole fraction of fluorinated sulfonamide side chain groups and is selected from 0.01 to 1; s and t are the number of fluorinated sulfonamide groups attached to the heterocyclic ring and are equal 0 to 2, with the proviso that s + t is equal to 1 to 2; A² is an aromatic heterocyclic group, with the proviso that the carbon atoms of the heterocyclic ring are fully substituted by the polymer backbone or the fluorinated

sulfonamide groups; and R⁴ and R⁵ are linear or branched perfluoroalkylene groups, optionally containing oxygen, chlorine, bromine, or iodine atoms.

15. (Original) The fluorinated sulfonamide vinyl polymer of claim 14 wherein the aromatic side chain group is phenyl.

16. (Original) The fluorinated sulfonamide vinyl polymer of claim 14 wherein Polymer is selected from the group consisting of polytetrafluoroethylene, polytrifluorostyrene, and polychlorotrifluoroethylene.

17. (Original) The fluorinated sulfonamide vinyl polymer of claim 14 wherein q is 0.1 to 1.

18. (Original) The fluorinated sulfonamide vinyl polymer of claim 17 wherein q is 0.6 to 1.

19. (Original) The fluorinated sulfonamide vinyl polymer of claim 14 wherein the aromatic heterocyclic group is selected from the group consisting of benzimidazole, benzoxazole, benzothiazole, benzobisimidazole, benzobisoxazole, benzobisthiazole, bibenzimidazole, bibenzoxazole, bibenzothiazole, imidazole, oxazole, thiazole, triazine, pyrazole, triazole, oxadiazole, and thiadiazole.

20. (Original) The fluorinated sulfonamide vinyl polymer of claim 19 wherein the aromatic heterocyclic group is selected from the group consisting of benzimidazole, benzoxazole, benzothiazole, and triazine.

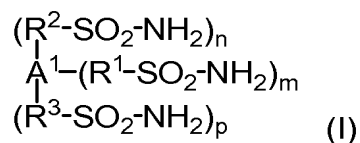
21. (Original) The fluorinated sulfonamide vinyl polymer of claim 20 wherein the aromatic heterocyclic group is benzimidazole.

22. (Original) The fluorinated sulfonamide vinyl polymer of claim 14 wherein the linear or branched perfluoroalkylene group, optionally containing oxygen, chlorine, bromine, or iodine atoms, contains 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

23. (Original) The fluorinated sulfonamide vinyl polymer of claim 20 wherein R⁴ and R⁵ are linear perfluoroalkylene groups containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

24. (Previously Presented) A polymer electrolyte membrane comprising a compound having fluorinated sulfonamide groups, -CF₂-SO₂-NH₂, selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a small molecule having general structure:

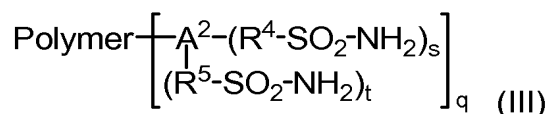


wherein m, n and p are 0 to 3, with the proviso that m + n + p is equal to 1 to 4;

A¹ is an aromatic heterocyclic group, with the proviso that carbon atoms of the heterocyclic ring are fully substituted by fluorinated sulfonamide groups; and

R¹, R², and R³ are linear or branched perfluoroalkylene groups, optionally containing oxygen, chlorine, bromine, or iodine atoms and;

(b) a polymer having general structure:



wherein Polymer is a polyperfluorocarbon or polypartially fluorinated carbon vinyl polymer backbone optionally containing aromatic side chain groups; q is the mole fraction of fluorinated sulfonamide side chain groups and is selected from 0.01 to 1; s and t are the number of fluorinated sulfonamide groups attached to the heterocyclic ring and are equal 0 to 2, with the proviso that s + t is equal to 1 to 2; A² is an aromatic heterocyclic group, with the proviso that the carbon atoms of the heterocyclic ring are fully substituted by the polymer backbone or the fluorinated sulfonamide groups; and R⁴ and R⁵ are linear or branched perfluoroalkylene groups, optionally containing oxygen, chlorine, bromine, or iodine atoms.

25. (Original) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 24 wherein compound is a small molecule.

26. (Original) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 24 wherein compound is a polymer.

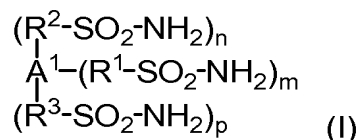
27. – 41. (Canceled)

42. (Canceled) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 26 wherein u is equal to 2 to 6 in structure (IV).

43. (Original) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 24 further comprising supporting materials.

44. (Previously Presented) A membrane electrode assembly comprising a polymer electrolyte membrane, wherein the polymer electrolyte membrane has a first surface and a second surface, and comprises a compound having fluorinated sulfonamide groups, –CF₂–SO₂–NH₂, selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a small molecule having general structure:

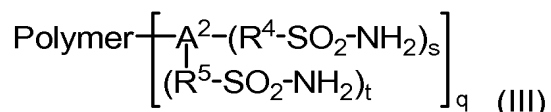


wherein m, n and p are 0 to 3, with the proviso that m + n + p is equal to 1 to 4;

A¹ is an aromatic heterocyclic group, with the proviso that carbon atoms of the heterocyclic ring are fully substituted by fluorinated sulfonamide groups; and

R¹, R², and R³ are linear or branched perfluoroalkylene groups, optionally containing oxygen, chlorine, bromine, or iodine atoms and;

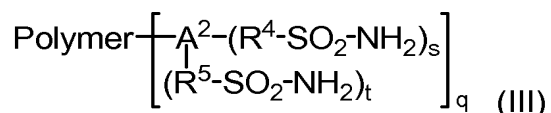
(b) a polymer having general structure:



wherein Polymer is a polyperfluorocarbon or polypartially fluorinated carbon vinyl polymer backbone optionally containing aromatic side chain groups; q is the mole fraction of fluorinated sulfonamide side chain groups and is selected from 0.01 to 1; s and t are the number of fluorinated sulfonamide groups attached to the heterocyclic ring and are equal 0 to 2, with the proviso that s + t is equal to 1 to 2; A² is an aromatic heterocyclic group, with the proviso that the carbon atoms of the heterocyclic ring are fully substituted by the polymer backbone or the fluorinated sulfonamide groups; and R⁴ and R⁵ are linear or branched perfluoroalkylene groups, optionally containing oxygen, chlorine, bromine, or iodine atoms.

45. (Original) The membrane electrode assembly of claim 44 further comprising at least one electrode prepared from an electrocatalyst coating composition present on the first or second surfaces of the membrane.

46. (Original) An membrane electrode assembly of claim 45 wherein the electrocatalyst composition comprises a polymer having the general structure:



wherein Polymer is a polyperfluorocarbon or polypartially fluorinated carbon vinyl polymer backbone optionally containing aromatic side chain groups; q is the mole fraction of fluorinated sulfonamide side chain groups and is selected from 0.01 to 1; s and t are the number of fluorinated sulfonamide groups attached to the heterocyclic ring and are equal 0 to 2, with the proviso that s + t is equal to 1 to 2; A² is an aromatic heterocyclic group, with the proviso that the carbon atoms of the heterocyclic ring are fully substituted by the polymer backbone or the fluorinated

sulfonamide groups; and R⁴ and R⁵ are linear or branched perfluoroalkylene groups, optionally containing oxygen, chlorine, bromine, or iodine atoms.

47. (Original) The membrane electrode assembly of claim 46 wherein the electrocatalyst composition further comprises a catalyst.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously Presented) An electrochemical cell comprising the membrane electrode assembly according to claim 44.

51. – 58. (Canceled)

59. (Previously Presented) An electrocatalyst composition comprising a polymer according to claim 14.

60. (Original) The electrocatalyst composition of claim 59 further comprising a catalyst.